



Reporting and Referring Child Protection Concerns

Concerns

A health professional has concerns for the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person including an unborn child due to physical, sexual, psychological/emotional abuse and/or neglect.

Considerations

Assessment is made using health professional expertise, knowledge and consideration of:

- The presence of signs, disclosures, injuries and behaviours (of parent and/or the child) that heighten your concerns about the safety and wellbeing of the child*
- Whether there are detrimental effects on the child's body or the child's psychological or emotional state that are evident at the time of presentation or likely to become evident in the future
- The nature and severity of the detrimental effects and the likelihood they will continue
- The child's age particularly the vulnerability of young children
- If there is a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm.

Consultation

It is recommended that health professionals consult with:

- Your line manager or colleague
- Your Child Protection Liaison Officer or Child Protection Advisor
- The **Child Protection Guide** (<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety>)

Note: Individuals may still report concerns if consensus with colleagues is not reached.

REPORTING TO CHILD SAFETY SERVICES

If you have formed a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and may not have a parent able and willing to protect them.

- Immediately report your concerns in writing to Child Safety Services Regional Intake Service (CSS-RIS) or Child Safety After Hours Service (CSAHS).
- It is recommended that you phone CSS-RIS or CSAHS and document the date, time and name of the person you spoke to in the client's medical record.

Complete the 'Report of a suspected child in need of protection' form:

- Online **report form** (<https://secure.communities.qld.gov.au/CBIR/ChildSafety>)
- Paper copy (fax or email to CSS-RIS or CSAHS)
- If you are unable to access the *Report of suspected child in need of protection* form you must provide a written report to CSS-RIS or CSAHS including details of the child, the nature of the harm and contact details of the person making the report.
- Print, sign and file in the client medical record
- Forward a copy to your local Child Protection Liaison Officer.

Contact your Child Protection Liaison Officer

REFERRAL TO FAMILY SUPPORT

If concerns do not reach the threshold for a report to Child Safety, but the family would benefit from a support service, consider referral with consent**, to one of the following:

Family and Child Connect**

- If the family has multiple and / or complex needs
- If the family requires further assessment and identification of needs
- Complete **referral form** (<https://secure.communities.qld.gov.au/CBIR>), print and file a copy in the client medical record.

Intensive family support service

- If the family has multiple and/or complex needs
- An appropriate intensive family support service is known and available
- Complete **referral form** (<https://secure.communities.qld.gov.au/CBIR>), print and file a copy in the client medical record.

Support service

- Refer to a specific support service
- Complete relevant referral processes for the specific service.

Notes:

It is your responsibility to document all actions and conversations in relation to the report or referral in the client's record.

* Consider the need for specific medical investigation and management

** Under s159M of the *Child Protection Act 1999* particular prescribed entities can refer families to Family and Child Connect or Intensive family support services without their consent to prevent a child from becoming in need of protection.

